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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1962

A.R. DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.O.H., D.T.M., & H.

Medical Officer of Health

J.P. MEARS, M.R.S.P., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1962.

The vital statistics are satisfactory, but again it must be stressed that we are dealing with very small numbers and a birth or death either way can cause a considerable difference in the ratios.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease.

Progress in the building of houses was particularly satisfactory.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Highways Committee for the interest and co-operation you have shown during the year and I am most grateful to Mr. Mears, who is responsible for most of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R. DARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1963.

AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1962

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - A.R. DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,
D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.

Surveyor, Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager -
J.P. MLARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.T.

Water Engineer - J.A. STANFORTH (transferred to Mid Bedford-
shire Water Board - April, 1962)

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	Acres, 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1961	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year, 1962	4,020
Number of inhabited houses	1,347
Rateable Value	£ 47,138
Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.63)	£ 183.0.0d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Amphill is in the southern half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside to two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery, and Amphill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Amphill Station has now been closed to passenger and goods traffic the nearest railway station now being situated at Flitwick, about two miles distant. The United Counties Omnibus Company operate in this area and surrounding district.

The district is mainly residential with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural and motor engineering and a firm of refrigeration engineers.

During the year the Saunders Piece site was completed. Fifteen one bedroom bungalows, three two bedroom bungalows and three chalet type three bedroom houses were completed and occupied, together with 24 garages, built in three blocks.

The completion of the Glebe Road estate took place during the year and the development of Holland Road continued. A new estate to be known as Abbey Close, consisting of 21 houses was commenced towards the end of the year. Plans for further development off Oliver Street were submitted and schemes were under consideration for the completion of the Amphill House Estate and for extensive development at Warren Farm.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, but others are employed at the Local brickworks and Messrs. Fergusons and Huntings, whose premises are situated just outside the Urban District. The remainder are engaged in agriculture and other employment consistent with a small town situated in a predominantly rural area.

Amphill Park provides facilities for cricket, tennis, hockey, fishing and a small putting green is provided in an area set aside for recreation, where other children's playground equipment is established. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls, Rugby, Tennis, Badminton & Netball clubs; Choral and dramatic societies and the Amphill Town Band, & mainly for the younger people, Scouts and other Youth organisations.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	47	35	82
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	48	36	84
Crude Birth Rate	20.9 per 1000 home population		
Comparable Birth Rate	20.1	"	"
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.96)			
As compared with -			
Average of last 5 years	16.9 per 1000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	21.3	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	18.0	"	"

Still Births

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still birth rate NIL per 1,000 live and still births

As compared with -				
Average of last 5 years	19.4	per	1000	live & stillbirths
Rate for Bedfordshire	17.0	"	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	18.1	"	"	"

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	14	13	27
Transferred into District	12	7	19
Transferred from District	-	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	26	19	45
Crude Death Rate	11.2 per 1000 home population		
Comparable Death Rate	9.2 " " " "		
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.82)			
As compared with -			
Average of last 5 years	12.9 per 1000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	11.1	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	11.9	"	"

<u>Deaths of Infants under One year of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-


Infant Mortality Rate NIL per 1000 related live births

As compared with -				
Average of last 5 years	13.2	per	1000	related live births
Rate for Bedfordshire	21.4	"	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	21.4	"	"	"

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality NIL per 1000 live and still births

As compared with -				
Average of last 5 years	3.2	per	1000	live births
Rate for Bedfordshire	NIL	"	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	0.35	"	"	"



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PRINCIPLE CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES

	m	f
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	5
18. Coronary disease, angina	5	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease	4	5
21. Other circulatory disease	1	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	2	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	1	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
34. All other accidents	1	-
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-

Totals

26 19

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS

N I L

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Infectious Disease Hospitals

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Near Luton.

Chest Clinics (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Venereal Disease Clinics

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing,
Wednesday 5 - 7 p.m. Friday 3 - 5 p.m.
St. Mary's Hospital, Luton,
Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford
Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(a) Ambulance Service

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be made to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows -

Amptill, 14 Dunstable Street	Tel: Amptill 3333
Bedford, Bedford Road, Kempston	Bedford 5335
Biggleswade, Chestnut Avenue	Biggleswade 2295
Dunstable, High Street North	Dunstable 62761
Luton, Leicester Road	Luton 52600 & 51871
Linslade, Bucks. County Council, 10 New Road	Leighton Buzzard
Leighton Buzzard.	3332

(b) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The Nurse employed is -

Mrs. L.F. Stockbridge, 11 Arthur Street, Ampthill
Telephone Ampthill 2261
Mr. K.F. Cripps, 189 Oliver Street, Ampthill
Telephone Ampthill 3248

(c) Health Visiting Service

Miss M.V. Maberly, 14b Linden Road, Bedford.

(d) Home Help Service

Organiser - Mrs. van Berckelaer, Health Centre, Union Street, Bedford.

(e) Child Welfare Centre

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday afternoons.

6. SCHOOLS

There are two schools in the District:
Redborne County Secondary School, Flitwick Road and The Russell School.

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

Responsibility for the water supply of the District has now been transferred to the Mid-Beds Water Board.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION
OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

Parts per million:

Colour	Nil	Turbidity	8
pH	8.9	Odour	faint earthy
Electric Conductivity	420	Free Carbon Dioxide	absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	30	Dissolved solids dried at 180°C	295
Hardness: Total, 200: Carbonate	100	Non Carbonate	100
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3	Nitrite Nitrogen	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.030	Oxygen absorbed	0.00
Albuminoid "	0.000	Residual Chlorine	absent
Metals: Iron 0.24, Zinc, Copper, Lead and Manganese:	Absent	Silica	22
Fluoride (F)	0.25		

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the Running Waters Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

(c) Rivers and Streams

One case of pollution was received and on investigation was found to be oil pollution from industrial premises. Arising out of negotiations together with the Pollution Inspector of the River Board, steps were taken by the persons in default to prevent further re-occurrences.

(d) Closet Accommodation

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but 66 houses with no sewer available are connected to cesspools, or septic tank installations. Three dwellings (isolated farm dwellings and cottages) have only pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing

The disposal and collection of house refuse continues satisfactorily, though it is apparent the existing 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam is too small a capacity for future requirements and is now coming to the end of its useful life. The Council are considering the purchase of a larger compression type vehicle.

The refuse tip at Bedford Road is rapidly being filled, but through the co-operation of the Rural District Council, arrangements have been made to use a tip at Brogborough. The existing tip is treated regularly for infestation of pests.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, the occupiers of premises drained to cesspools make their own private arrangements.

(f) Salvage

During the year no waste paper was collected for sale due to the inability of the merchants and mills to accept baled waste. This added to the problem of refuse collection and disposal, besides the loss of income arising out of the sale of this salvageable material.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	5
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	-
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	4
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	2
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	-
Premises with defective floors	2
Dirty premises	1
Dangerous structure	-
Accumulations of offensive matter	-
Unsound meat and other foods	6
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. & infectious	-
Nuisance from rats and mice /disease/	31
Other dilapidations	..
Number of Statutory notices served	-
Number of informal notices served	16
Number of defective premises	14

(h) Shops and Offices

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

(i) Camping Sites

One application for a moveable dwelling was granted, on a Building plot, whilst a house for the occupant was in course of construction.

(j) Smoke Abatement

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation

No treatment was necessary.

8, HOUSING

During the year the Beetsbury Road extension was completed which comprised 18 units of accommodation, consisting of three 3 bedroom chalets with one bedroom on the ground floor, and three 2 bedroomed bungalows, and twelve 1 bedroomed bungalows. The chalets were built primarily to afford suitable housing where an invalid existed within the family. The remainder of the development was consistent with that provided for the elderly.

41 private dwellings were completed and occupied, the bulk of these on the Clebe Road, Holland Road and Alameda Road estates.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws -

115 houses and bungalows	25 Garages - private
32 alterations to domestic premises	1 extension to R.C. Church
9 alterations to business premises	1 Conversion of stable block to dwelling
1 Commercial garage	

Town and Country Planning

65 applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 48 were approved, 12 refused and 5 withdrawn.

9. RODENT CONTROL

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys etc. and take such steps as to keep infestation down to a minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sewage Works, and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the District generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests of the Sewerage system were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

10. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors	14	26
2. Bakers and confectioners	6	14
3. Grocers	4	12
4. Fishmongers	1	4
5. General stores	8	18
6. Butchers	5	15
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	4
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	4	16
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	12
2. Industrial Canteens	-	-
3. School canteens	2	4
4. Hotels	1	4
5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops	1	4
7. Others	-	-
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	15
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	15
3. Bakehouses	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers	1	2
5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailer's premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

20lbs Imported lambs livers 47lbs tinned food & groceries

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the butchers shops is always stained with Condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under s 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five butchers' shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Bakehouses

The one bakehouse in the district was destroyed by fire during the year.

(i) Ice Cream Registration (under s 16 Food & Drugs Act, 1955
and Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-52)

Fourteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article, except for one where a 'cold-mix' is manufactured and sold. No samples were taken during the year by this department.

(j) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the regulations were being complied with.

11. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	2	-
Measles	3	-	-	3	-

These columns depend for their accuracy on notifications received from general practitioners. Some of the diseases have now become so unimportant that there is nowhere near full notification, so that the figures given can only be taken as an indication of the trend.

Reporting of serious diseases is still complete and in this connection it will be noticed that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 35								
35 - 65								
Over 65								
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

Pulmonary

M F

10 5

Non Pulmonary

M F

- 3

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District	-	NIL
Bedfordshire	-	3.3
England and Wales	-	5.9

12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There is a weekly visit of a mobile unit for chest x-rays on the request of a general practitioner. This unit is on the Sands, every Thursday from 12 noon to 12.30 p.m.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria, is the responsibility of the County Council, and has been carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Immunisation against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Venereous Persons Public Health Act, 1936, Section 85

Lice

No treatments were given under this section this year.

The bulk of the cases which might call for treatment are in school children with lousy heads, who are always treated informally by the school nurse.

There is an arrangement with the Borough of Bedford to treat general infestations at Barkers Lane, Bedford at a cost of 30/- per treatment for adults and 17/6d. per treatment for children.

Modern treatment of scabies no longer necessitates cleansing under this Section.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	11		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	17		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding out-workers premises)	11	31		
Total	30	59		

* Electrical Stations (Sections 103(1), Institutions Section 104 and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND
(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspect or	Found by H.M. Inspect or	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation(s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences(s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
TOTAL	2	2			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 110 & 111

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

